

Participant Information Sheet

Study Title: How do teachers and foster carers attribute the challenging behaviour of primary school-aged looked-after children?

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ERGO number: 47107

You are being invited to take part in the above research study. To help you decide whether you would like to take part or not, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the information below carefully and ask questions if anything is not clear or you would like more information before you decide to take part in this research. You may like to discuss it with others but it is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you are happy to participate you will be asked to sign a consent form.

What is the research about?

This research project is being completed as part of the lead researcher's thesis for their Educational Psychology Doctorate Training at the University of Southampton. The research is aiming to explore foster carers' and teachers' experiences of challenging behaviour from looked after children. In particular, we are interested in the explanations that foster carers' and teachers' give and how this contributes to the management of the challenging behaviour.

Why have I been asked to participate?

You have been approached and asked to participate as a teacher who has worked with a looked after child. In particular, we are looking for individuals to participate only if:

- You have experience with a looked after child who was between the ages of 4 and 11 years old at the time
- You have worked with a particular looked after child for at least 6 consecutive months
- Any part of the 6-month period has occurred within the last 12 months.

The above criteria are to ensure that participants taking part in the research have had a prolonged and recent experience working with a looked after child.

If you are unsure as to whether you meet the criteria, please feel free to contact the lead researcher (c.f.bird@soton.ac.uk) and they would be happy to discuss this with you further.

What will happen to me if I take part?

If you have expressed an interest in taking part in the research, the lead researcher will contact you to arrange a time and date that is mutually convenient to meet. The lead researcher will also contact the headteacher of the school you work at to obtain their consent for the research to take place. This is because the interview will take place on school grounds and therefore a room will be required, as well as the releasing of yourself from teaching duties for the period of the interview.

When we meet the researcher will obtain informed and written consent from yourself before starting the interview. The type of interview that will take place is semi-structured. This means that the researcher has a list of questions that they would like to ask, but the interview will adapt to the conversation that is happening.

The interview should last approximately 30 minutes, but may take longer. Interviews will be audio-recorded so that the interview can be transcribed at a later date – this is a requirement of the research, if you do not wish to be audio-recorded then unfortunately you will be unable to take part in the research.

Are there any benefits in my taking part?

All participants will receive a £5 amazon voucher for taking part in this research as a token of appreciation. This is the only direct benefit of taking part in this research. However, the aim of the research is to be able to provide an exploration and understanding of foster carers' and teachers' experiences of challenging behaviour from looked after children, particularly from a psychological perspective. This research will help improve our understanding of this area which may lead to indirect benefits for foster carers' and teachers' working with looked after children in the future.

Are there any risks involved?

There are very few, if any, risks to taking part in the research. One possible risk is that the discussion of the challenging behaviour of looked after children may cause some psychological discomfort or distress. If any participant were to experience psychological distress during the course of the interview, both the researcher and the participant are at liberty to stop the interview or take a break. If distress persists following the interview, teachers would be directed to speak to either their designated teacher or the virtual school.

What data will be collected?

We will collect certain demographic data, such as age and sex. We will also collect information regarding your length of experience working with looked after children. This is to provide background information to the main data that we will collect.

The majority of the data that we will collect will be the audio-recordings of the interview which will later be transcribed and anonymised.

Contact details for participants whilst arranging interview dates will be kept on a password protected computer.

Will my participation be confidential?

Your participation and the information we collect about you during the course of the research will be kept strictly confidential.

Only members of the research team and responsible members of the University of Southampton may be given access to data about you for monitoring purposes and/or to carry out an audit of the study to ensure that the research is complying with applicable regulations. Individuals from regulatory authorities (people who check that we are carrying out the study correctly) may require access to your data. All of these people have a duty to keep your information, as a research participant, strictly confidential.

Consent forms containing identifiable information will be kept in a locked cabinet within the Psychology building at the University of Southampton.

Audio-recordings will be kept on a password protected computer. Once transcriptions of the audio-recordings have been made, the audio-recordings will be deleted.

Do I have to take part?

No, it is entirely up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you want to take part, you will need to sign a consent form to show you have agreed to take part.

If you are interested in taking part, please contact the lead researcher to indicate this if you have not already done so (contact details at the bottom of this sheet).

What happens if I change my mind?

You have the right to change your mind and withdraw at any time during the interview and up until four weeks following your interview date without giving a reason and without your participant rights being affected. You will be unable to withdraw your data at this point as data analysis will have commenced and it will no longer be possible to remove your data.

If you wish to withdraw part way through the interview you can do so by stating your intention to the lead researcher (interviewer). You can then confirm whether you are happy for the data already collected to be included in the research or not.

If you wish to withdraw once the interview has finished, or up until four weeks after your interview date, you can express your wish to withdraw by contacting the lead researcher.

If you wish to withdraw from the study after the four weeks has ended, we will keep the information about you that we have already obtained for the purposes of achieving the objectives of the study only.

What will happen to the results of the research?

Your personal details will remain strictly confidential. Research findings made available in any reports or publications will not include information that can directly identify you without your specific consent.

The project will be written up and published as part of the lead researcher's thesis research for their Doctoral studies. Participants will have the opportunity to indicate on the consent form whether they would like to receive a link to the published research, in addition to a summary of the findings.

Where can I get more information?

You can contact any of the researchers for further information (contact details at the bottom of the page).

What happens if there is a problem?

If you have a concern about any aspect of this study, you should speak to the researchers who will do their best to answer your questions.

If you remain unhappy or have a complaint about any aspect of this study, please contact the University of Southampton Research Integrity and Governance Manager (023 8059 5058, rgoinfo@soton.ac.uk).

Data Protection Privacy Notice

The University of Southampton conducts research to the highest standards of research integrity. As a publicly-funded organisation, the University has to ensure that it is in the public interest when we use personally-identifiable information about people who have agreed to take part in research. This means that when you agree to take part in a research study, we will use information about you in the ways needed, and for the purposes specified, to conduct and complete the research project. Under data protection law, 'Personal data' means any information that relates to and is capable of identifying a living individual. The University's data protection policy governing the use of personal data by the University can be found on its website (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>).

This Participant Information Sheet tells you what data will be collected for this project and whether this includes any personal data. Please ask the research team if you have any questions or are unclear what data is being collected about you.

Our privacy notice for research participants provides more information on how the University of Southampton collects and uses your personal data when you take part in one of our research projects and can be found at <http://www.southampton.ac.uk/assets/sharepoint/intranet/Is/Public/Research%20and%20Integrity%20Privacy%20Notice/Privacy%20Notice%20for%20Research%20Participants.pdf>

Any personal data we collect in this study will be used only for the purposes of carrying out our research and will be handled according to the University's policies in line with data protection law. If any personal data is used from which you can be identified directly, it will not be disclosed to anyone else without your consent unless the University of Southampton is required by law to disclose it.

Data protection law requires us to have a valid legal reason ('lawful basis') to process and use your Personal data. The lawful basis for processing personal information in this research study is for the performance of a task carried out in the public interest. Personal data collected for research will not be used for any other purpose.

For the purposes of data protection law, the University of Southampton is the 'Data Controller' for this study, which means that we are responsible for looking after your information and using it properly. The University of Southampton will keep identifiable information about you for 10 years after the study has finished after which time any link between you and your information will be removed.

To safeguard your rights, we will use the minimum personal data necessary to achieve our research study objectives. Your data protection rights – such as to access, change, or transfer such information - may be limited, however, in order for the research output to be reliable and accurate. The University will not do anything with your personal data that you would not reasonably expect.

Data will be anonymised, this is when all personal data is deleted and is no longer accessible and therefore the research data cannot be traced back to an individual.

If you have any questions about how your personal data is used, or wish to exercise any of your rights, please consult the University's data protection webpage (<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/legalservices/what-we-do/data-protection-and-foi.page>) where you can make a request using our online form. If you need further assistance, please contact the University's Data Protection Officer (data.protection@soton.ac.uk).

Thank you

Thank you for taking the time to read this information sheet and considering taking part in the research.

Contact Details

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